AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-26 (Cancelled).

27. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 30 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:61~~)~~;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 30 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:61), lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 30 (SEQ ID NO:61);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 30 (SEQ ID NO:61), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence ~~shown in Figure 29 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:60~~)~~;

~~(f)~~(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence ~~shown in Figure 29 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:60~~)~~; or

~~(g)~~(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203971.

28. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 30 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:61~~)~~.

29. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide ~~shown in Figure 30 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:61~~)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

30-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the nucleic acid sequence ~~shown in Figure 29 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:60~~)~~.

33. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA ~~shown in Figure 29 (~~ of SEQ ID NO:60~~)~~.

34. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203971.

35-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~22~~27.

39. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

40. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 38.

41. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 40, wherein said cell is CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

42. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 98% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:61 or to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:61 lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said encoded polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation or to induce fetal hemoglobin.

43. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 42 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:61 or to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:61 lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said encoded polypeptide has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation or to induce fetal hemoglobin.

44. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 42.

45. (New) The vector of Claim 44, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

46. (New) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 44.

47. (New) The host cell of Claim 46, wherein said cell is CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

48. (New) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:60, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce mesangial cell proliferation or to induce fetal hemoglobin.

49. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 48.

50. (New) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 49.

51. (New) The host cell of Claim 50, wherein said cell is CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

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DELETION OF INVENTORS

Please correct the inventorship under 37 CFR §1.48(b) by removing the following inventors from the present application:

Luc Desnoyers, Timothy L. Stewart and Zemin Zhang.